

**Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting
January 5, 2006
Fire Academy
Riverton, WY 82501**

- I. **Call to order:** The January 5, 2006 meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association was called to order by President Duane Stolns at approximately 1:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II **Roll call:** 60 individuals signed the roster.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Gene Diedtrich gave the Treasurer's Report, from the financial statement for September 1, 2006 through December 20, 2005. The period began with \$6,742.00, dues deposits of \$430.00 with \$30.00 in interest. There was one expense for photocopies for \$57.00. The balance, as of December 20, 2005, is \$7,146.00.
 - Motion 1:** Ray Weidenhaft moved to approve the Treasurer's Report
 - Second:** Randy Vickers
 - Motion Carried.**

Gene Diedtrich stated he had made an assessment of the standing regarding dues, noting the last three years has brought in \$5,500.00 and have been expending approximately \$5,500.00. Gene recommended that dues be left the same for 2006 as is; \$50.00 for a department membership and \$30.00 for the additional members of the department.

- Motion 2:** Gene Diedtrich moved to leave dues at the current amount of \$50.00
- Second:** Brad Sarff
- Motion carried.**

Gene continued, noting for the last few years the Fire Chiefs had traditionally helped with the legislative effort in Cheyenne. In 2005 the Fire Chiefs gave \$4,500.00, the year before was \$4,000.00, and suggested the level of \$4,500.00 level be maintained.

- Motion 3:** Gene Diedtrich moved to donate \$4,500.00 to the legislative effort
- Second:** Randy Vickers
- Motion carried.**

- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** President Stolns stated the minutes of the last meeting had been mailed out and asked if there were any corrections.

- Motion 4:** Dennis Estes moved to accept the minutes of the meeting from September 8, 2005 as written
- Second:** Gene Diedtrich
- Motion Carried.**

V. **Committee Reports.**

- 1. **Intelligence Report from U.S. Attorney's Office.** This report, on the Task Force that the FBI has set up in Wyoming, was presented by John Powell. John stated he lives in Cheyenne and had been in Wyoming for approximately 32 years. He worked for the Cheyenne Police Dept. for approximately 22 years and retired in 2002 and went to work for the Federal government. John stated he has been detailed part-time to the FBI in Colorado and Wyoming. He said he had a public-safety background,

had worked with local Sheriffs and Fire Chiefs throughout Wyoming for the last 10-15 years, and that he had retired as Chief of Cheyenne Police Department.

John said the idea behind the Joint Terrorism Task Force is to generally protect the state and keep us safe and to react in case any terrorist-type events occur in the state. John noted as citizens, we should not kid ourselves that we have problems in our state. This is not limited to international terrorists, but is directly in relation to our own domestic problems; those home-grown people that have ill will towards our state government and the federal government. John continued, noting the task force stays busy within the state investigating those types of issues.

John said the mission of the Joint Terrorism Task Force is to identify and investigate potential and actual threats against Wyoming and to protect the state. He informed everyone he had brought handouts and everyone could use them to follow along. Also, to speak up if there were any questions. John said what he was asking for was everyone's assistance in keeping our state safe, and to be aware of what is going on in the state and give them a call, or call local, federal or state law enforcement, Office of Homeland Security, or anybody who would be involved that could help out the Task Force in keeping the state safe. It is a part-time task force as there is not enough people or business in the state to make it full-time, and is made up of some local law enforcement. John stated no one knows what is going on in a community more than the local public safety officer. It is important to the Task Force that everyone be able to communicate to them or local agencies what is happening in the community. The Task Force was able to work on cases because firefighters saw things and called. It is this two-way communication that is being sought by the Task Force.

John noted that other agencies are only used on an "as needed basis". John said he had promised this to the police chiefs and the state directors, that he would not use these people all the time for things other than what they were needed for. When the Task Force has a case in the region where these folks are assigned, then they are asked to help out. The Task Force is managed by Special Agent Linda Scott, who is an FBI agent working out of Cheyenne, with John administering the program.

John stated their current organization has their own task force in Wyoming, but that this was not always the case. Since 1997 there was a task force which was put together and brought on board in Denver which served Colorado and Wyoming, and was made up of the same agencies. John said he was asked to join that task force when he first came on board with the Department of Justice in 2002. He was the liaison between the Colorado and Wyoming U.S. Attorney's Office and the intelligence-type programs they had. There is an ad-hoc terrorism task force on the western slope of Colorado, and they have new task force, full-time, in Colorado Springs because there is an awful lot of business there with the military installations.

John continued, giving a history on the background of how the Wyoming task force came into existence. In 2004 Governor Freudenthal asked the special agent in charge of the FBI in Denver to create a Wyoming task force, which was specifically designed to support Wyoming. This task was then assigned to John. Wyoming was the only state in the U.S. which did not have a terrorism task force. John stated when one considers the number of potential targets in Wyoming, it is easy to understand why a task force was necessary; the huge natural gas/oil resources, coal, methane

beds, transportation systems, the generation and transportation of power, which are huge assets. No one had looked at Wyoming and realized that those assets were there other than the residents of Wyoming. That had to be brought to the forefront. If a couple of the transmission towers are knocked down then the whole West coast is in trouble. Imagine if someone went out to one of the refineries and blasted one of them, or took one of the transmission lines to the West coast completely down. It would take a long time to recover from that. One can imagine what would happen to the economy just from overreaction. You could see that on headline news for a week and imagine what would happen. The Wyoming task force was put together based on the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security regional response system. The Task Force liked that system, and it made sense to them. There are six or seven regions in the state. John continued, noting the Task Force had put someone from the Sheriff's Department, Federal and State agency on the task force for each one of those regions. The whole idea behind it is who better knows that region than someone who lives and works there, and works with the people that the Task Force may be looking at, or who has access to databases that the Task Force needs to get into to do a proper investigation. This allows for great cooperation between these agencies.

John noted these cooperating agencies may already be familiar with the people they are working on. It is like employees, 5% or 6% are the ones who cause 90% of the problems. Chances are the local law enforcement person knows who they are. That is what the Task Force is looking for. John stated a background investigation is required before agencies/people are asked to join the Task Force. All the members of the Task Force have to be certified law enforcement. Once accepted, they are granted a secret security clearance from the FBI and Department of Justice. The Task Force provides them training and briefings. If the Task Force has problems in these agencies' areas, they need to be aware of it before that problem gets worse.

John said what the Task Force does not want is for this to be a drain on the cooperating agency, that is why these people are used on an as-needed basis. Meetings are not necessarily held in Cheyenne. The Task Force meetings and training is held around the state. John said there are two types of investigation. Domestic, which involves the "home-grown" people. These people are U.S. citizens who have a beef with a government agency but do not handle it the way normal people do. They might decide they are going to kill somebody or blow something up, or stockpile ammunition or explosives. John said it is surprising how many cases of this nature the Task Force had done over the last few years – local folks causing problems for local law enforcement.

John noted the second part of that scenario is international, with I-80 and I-25 coming through Wyoming, one can imagine some of the folks who are traveling between California and Detroit. John said several cases are being investigated within the state. There is a history of cases; one is currently a person from Albany County doing federal prison time for involvement in support of terrorism. There are some people who are on the chopping block right now, and may end up doing federal prison time in the future for the same type of problems – threats to our resources and support of terrorism cases. It is out there. Be aware, keep your eyes open, if you see things that look suspicious contact your local law enforcement representative and let them know. John stated the Task Force would rather have 100 calls that turn out to be nothing, than to not get a call when it is. He stressed it wasn't limited to law enforcement,

everyone can help out. The FBI's number in Cheyenne is (307) 632-6224 and the Office of Homeland Security is (800) 777-HOME (4663). John confirmed that the calls and identities would be confidential, and if anyone had any questions could call the FBI and ask for John Powell.

Duane then stated the order of the Agenda would be changed, and the Office of Homeland Security would report next.

- 2. Office of Homeland Security.** Director Joe Moore reported. He stated that John Powell deserves a lot of credit for what he has done for the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Director Moore stated part of the responsibilities that Office of Homeland Security (OHS) was required to do for the '03 and '04 funding was to assess the vulnerabilities of the State of Wyoming. Each respective candidate was asked to do that, then a list was compiled of what the OHS was believed to be vulnerable targets for terrorists. Then John was asked to have that Joint Terrorism Task Force review the assessment and rank the top 10, so countermeasures could be focused on the most critical and would have the greatest impact. Director Moore stated he continues, on behalf of the OHS, to compliment everyone and appreciate the cooperation which is given to OHS and to the Regional Response teams. It doesn't work unless everyone cooperates.

For those who are directly involved in the funding process, the '03 funding cycle has pretty much been completed. Most of the money has been expended, except for a few counties. He asked that everyone check with their respective county coordinators who may have funds which are reserved for exercises. Director Moore noted that in '03, everything had to be separated for what was designated for training, exercise and equipment. There is money available in some of the counties for exercises, so if an exercise is planned, check with the county coordinator. '04 then it was the decision at the county level to do as you wish.

Director Moore stated there was an extension of the '04 funding until July 31, 2006. That fund was to expire December '05, but the OHS requested that Washington extend that deadline and they did until July 31, 2006. The '05 money, which many counties have and have not expended, expires December 2006. The '05 money and the fiscal year '06 money can be used for training exercise or equipment. The fiscal year '06 money has not been granted or sent out yet. Director Moore said there has been a major philosophical change in Washington, and everyone can expect a significant reduction in fiscal year of '06 money. That money, when it is brought out, will probably have an expiration date of December of '07. Many things have happened. There has been a change of leadership of Homeland Security, Secretary Chertoff has now taken the philosophy that certain areas are more targeted than others by terrorists. There are some critical targets in Wyoming that could be very disruptive to the overall economy and structure of this country. Director Moore stated he hoped Washington listens to that as the terrorists know it, so it is something to be fought every day. The actual grant money which was given to Wyoming has been reduced by 50% nation-wide, so they will probably take a 50% cut there. Where it use to be divided by population, they have taken a portion of that money, divided that equitably among the 50 states and the other will be a competitive grant – in other words, each state will have to show what they have in-state that is vulnerable to terrorists attack. That will be very difficult but the OHS will do their best to convey that.

Director Moore stated that in the future there will be reductions of federal funding. The OHS is sensitive to what happened with hurricane Katrina, but a lot of that money all comes out of the same department and will have to account for the funding needed to get the areas in the hurricane revitalized. He said there was a lot of impact on what has happened with that Homeland Security money. Director Moore stated that in the very near future it will be the responsibility of the state or county to pick up sustainment costs. He noted there were a lot of good implementations in defeating terrorism in place; the Regional Response teams are an agency we want to keep operating because that benefits the entire state. Those are things which have to be looked at in the future.

Director Moore stated that some may have read about the State having to do an evacuation plan – this was a direct result of what happened with Katrina. Part of the '06 funding that was previously mentioned will require the State to begin the process of developing an evacuation plan to totally evacuate the citizens of Wyoming. He noted on January 9, 2006 the OHS would submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the plans which are now in existence, not new ones, just current existing plans, and a roadmap of what each state needs to do to move toward developing a total plan for evacuation. That will require a lot of work on the part of the OHS.

Director Moore noted that one of the things which came out of that during discussion in Cheyenne, is that many – present at the meeting – will not be leaving because they will have to stay behind. It will require estimating how many people would be required to stay to protect life and property, and things of that nature, and some may be called upon by the county coordinator for input, so is something everyone should be thinking about it. Director Moore said they would submit what they have to-date in the state, and some counties had developed evacuation plans for the counties, so they just need to be looked at. Washington will send representatives out to discuss with the OHS plans and recommendations on how a comprehensive plan can be developed.

Director Moore stated those are the things which are in the pipeline that the State must do. He again expressed appreciation for the cooperation each agency has afforded the OHS and if anyone has any questions, he would be available to answer them.

3. **State Fire Council.** Chief Mark Young gave this report. Chief Young stated one of the things he tries to do while giving this report is remind everyone what the State Fire Council is. The State Fire Council is a Governor appointed five-member board that develops the rules for the Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety – the rules and processes that are developed by that council that Jim Narva's office operates under in Cheyenne. Chief Young stated he is the fire service' representative as one of the five people on the board. Chief Young stated if anyone had issues that they wanted him to take back and deal with at the council level to let him know. He noted another one of the Council's responsibilities is to hear appeals that come in from around the state on code issues, i.e., where an inspector goes out and makes a ruling under the Fire Code and then the business owner may decide they need a variance, or some sort of different methodology on how to apply that code; they can appeal through a process which the Council has developed rules for. The Council sits

as a governing body, hears those appeals and makes a decision on whether or not a variance is granted.

Chief Young stated that was all for his report as he had missed the last State Fire Council's meeting because he was busy with Missouri Valley Chiefs' functions. He stated one of the hot issues the State Fire Council recently dealt with was the issue of the Bull Moose Saloon in Alpine. The issues are the State is requiring a sprinkler system in that facility, they were building new _____ (inaudible) to the facility that needed to be sprinklered and the owner appealed that and there was an all-day session in Cheyenne and the Council asked them what they wanted as a variance or as an alternative method and the owner stated they had no other options, they just didn't want to have a sprinkler system, so the Council turned that down and to this date, through a Court order, and Jim Narva's office, his inspectors are just enforcing the code that is out there. The Court has now said they are limiting the Bull Moose Saloon's occupancy to 100 people with live entertainment, but while people are in the building there has to be a fire watch. So, people on duty have to do the actual fire watch. That has obviously caused some issues, they are still not happy and they are still corresponding directly with Jim Narva and to the Governor's Office about how unhappy they are. Chief Young stated the next meeting is in April, and asked if there were any questions.

4. **Missouri Valley Chiefs.** Chief Brad Sarff reported. He stated he would like to remind everyone as well that he is the representative for the Missouri Valley division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Sarff noted that Chief Young is the President of that division, but that he, Chief Sarff, is everyone's voice at that agency. He stated they try to talk about issues which not only affect everyone at the state level, but how they fit into the regional level and then how that fits into the national level.

Chief Sarff noted that he was not at the last Chiefs' meeting and had not given that report, but he and Chief Young had attended a conference in Columbia, Missouri. He noted it was an excellent opportunity and it was a great conference and that a lot of money was made for the division to be able to go out do some things such as training, etc. The next conference the division has will take place in Omaha, Nebraska July 19 through the 21st, 2006, which is not far away as one can get there in a day. There are some great programs and training available at those conferences.

Chief Sarff said the next Fire Rescue International, which is the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), is in Dallas, TX. September 14-16, 2006. This past year it was in Denver, CO., and there were some Wyoming faces there. It was an excellent conference. Obviously, it is a little more difficult and expensive for everyone to get to Dallas, TX. but it is another great opportunity by the IAFC. He continued, noting one of the great things being worked on at the IAFC through the divisions is a mutual aid initiative. Through the divisions they are trying to get best practices throughout the country – what works for mutual aid. Primarily they are focused on the fire side of things and they eventually want to spread that out. All of this came from what happened with the hurricanes this past summer. How do you help people, how do you help neighbors and how do you help other states and how do you get language in place that lets one do that cleanly and effectively. They are working on it from a division level to find those things that work the best – the actual

statute language, what works best for different people. There was a conference held by Microsoft a couple of months ago and Microsoft is trying to get information from firefighters basically using the IAFC as a platform, to develop software within Microsoft, such as reporting software, that can benefit the fire service in general.

Chief Sarff stated he understood there were a couple of Missouri Valley reps that went to that and it was an excellent conference and there may be some interesting things which come out of that in the future. Chief Sarff stated for those who are already IAFC members, they may already know because the newsletter talked about it, currently as part of the membership you get a subscription to Fire Chief magazine. Fire Chief magazine - the company was recently sold, so the IAFC entered some discussions with others that may be interested in providing that particular product, and out of that came the fact that the Fire Chief will no longer be the free subscription, Fire Rescue magazine will be the subscription you will receive as part of your membership. There have been some discussions about that. They are really interested in how to better communicate to the membership, to the firefighters out in the field – how to get the message out from a national perspective – on what is taking place. Fire Rescue magazine is really interested in trying to be that voice.

Chief Sarff said another issue, which is sponsored by the Western Fire Chiefs' Association, a Missouri Valley division counterpart, is called the Daily Dispatch. Dailydispatch.com allows you to sign up, you do not have to be a member, it is a free service, and you will get a daily E-mail, and you will get little tidbits that come out in the news – if you pick Wyoming when you sign up – and has proven to be real interesting. It does a good job of letting you know of things that are happening in the State of Wyoming, and it expands a little bit into other regions, so, we hear some things from the Missouri Valley division and our neighbors, Colorado, Montana and South Dakota. Chief Sarff reiterated that he is the voice throughout the region, and if anything needs to be passed on, they do a conference call once a month and that is where that kind of information is shared, and to freely contact him.

5. **Certification Committee.** Lyle Armstrong, Training Officer, Rock Springs Fire Department, and member of the Accreditation Committee gave this report. He stated the Committee had met January 5, 2006. There were a couple of changes in membership; Chief Bill Alexander has left Wyoming for a job in Pierre, SD, and a couple of new members to add. First, Training Division Manager, Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety, Phil Oakes, and Bret Vance, with Laramie Fire Department.

Certification in the State of Wyoming is alive and well. There were 517 tests proctored, and 327 certifications were issued. Everyone's support of the program is appreciated. Certification has been working long and hard to process the accreditation for our certification system. On November 18, 2005 we received national accreditation by the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications for FFI, FFII, Apparatus Driver Operation, Pumper, Apparatus Driver Aerial, HAZMAT Awareness and HAZMAT Operations and Certifications. There will be a presentation and discussion January 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., to discuss that further and would appreciate everyone attending. It can be explained, and any questions answered that anyone may have.

Lyle continued, noting along with the new accreditation, new standards have been developed which are replacing the task books. Those are available for download on the Fire Marshal's website, or contact Rita Lee, Certification Coordinator, at the Fire Marshal's Officer (307) 777-6264 and request them to be sent to you. As of January 5, 2006, certification standards which are the new version of the taskbook are being used. Everyone is asked to start using those now. We will stop accepting the old taskbook for FFI, FFII, and the others as of June 30, 2006. Lyle stated he wanted everyone to be aware there is a transition period – if you are a FFI and you wish to pick up the Nationally Accredited FFII certification, you just go right into the next one. We are not invalidating any of your current certifications, and will continue to offer the certification system as you've noted, but we are giving you one more step to reach forward to. If you are a FFI you can go right to the next step and have that National Accreditation, however, if you are a FFI now and you wish to have a FFI National Accreditation with Pro-Board, and you have gotten that certification in the last year, you will have until January 5, 2007 to take a skills test. It is confusing so it will be discussed at the meeting on January 7, 2006, everyone should try to be there.

Lyle further stated if anyone is FFII certified, or has a certification that is over a year old, you will be required – if you wish to have National Accreditation of your certification – to take the written test and skills test before January '07. If you choose to wait until after that year assimilation period you will have to start over. Everyone is encouraged, if you wish to pursue the National Accreditation, to do it the first year. Lyle informed everyone if they had any questions they could contact him or any of the Certification members, or attend the meeting January 7th. He continued, stating they were working on the HAZMAT Operations. Lyle stated that concluded his report.

6. **Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.** Gerry Dewey gave this report. Gerry stated she would be contacting Ray Price to play the bagpipes, unless anyone has any objections. Daniel Smith also needs to be contacted to see about playing the trumpet. Gerry felt everything is going ok, but she was waiting to hear from the Governor as to whether he will be available or not. Everything else is pretty well ready.

Gene Diedtrich asked if that would be April 1, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Gerry confirmed. Lyle Armstrong stated he was on a soapbox at the last meeting about the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, but wished that everyone present would make it known that April 1 is the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, it is a great presentation, it is an honor to those that have served, but the turnout the last few years makes you wonder, so take it back with you to your departments. Gerry interjected, stating they have been ordering approximately 100 programs and that they had not gone through all of them each time. Lyle stated he thought 200 should be ordered this year and give them all out. Gerry said they have always done just 100 programs and that she did not know how many had been given out. President Stolns thanked Lyle for the reminder that that is a great program, and it needs to be supported.

7. **Legislative.** Chief Don Huber gave this report. He asked if there was going to be a barbecue before the service. Gerry confirmed. Chief Huber stated there is a budget session coming up, not a whole lot. The only thing that has really been seen that is on paper is Fire Marshall Narva has a thing on background checks, other than that, nothing concrete. Chief Huber said in order to cut things short, is to let the other

agencies, when they get up to report, is to add what they are doing budgetary-wise. He said there is one issue, the State Emergency Response Commission is meeting, 19th & 20th, the 20th is the actual _____ (inaudible) meeting in Cheyenne at Little America at 8:00 a.m. One of the committees is the Planning Committee and an item we will bring up to them is their Mutual Aid system that the State of Montana is using _____ (inaudible) us to take a look at, and it will open up some doors of communication with us and see what we think of it. At this time, Chief Huber turned comments over to Chief Britton Gray from Yellowstone National Park. Chief Huber asked everyone to take a look at the all-hazard mutual aid agreement...(inaudible,)

Chief Gray stated in 1997 Montana passed a State Statute which says in the absence of a formal agreement, a Chief can call a Chief for assistance, and wrote in for liabilities that if an agency responds, they'll bring their own insurance, pay for gas and be self-sustained. Very simple, very straight forward, no signatures involved in it, so if you don't partake and the next echelon comes through and does, it's there. They meet twice a year and write a handbook, and those that are participating in the mutual aid system write the handbook. They put in some good stuff on etiquette, checklist for HAZMAT and a checklist for terrorism. One of the things they have made sure of is if you respond to an emergency you will respond to an IC, you will be checked in, there is a risk management plan, and there is accountability. So it is not like a department just sending thier firefighters off and you hope they come back. They set timelines, they put in descriptions of what an engine is, how many people, what equipment would be on it, and how long you would commit for. The smaller departments they have asked to backup their neighbors when they come to help if the smaller department cannot come. It has built a huge network where with one phone call you can have three or four people on the other end of that line making sure that what you are doing is what you need to be doing. It is a really great system. They put together a video which consists of the people who have used the Montana Mutual Aid system and their feelings on it. Chief Gray stated he had some of the books if anyone wanted to look at them. The State Statute is in the books and he will share the ones that he has.

Chief Gray noted that Chief Crandall came down the day before with him and had asked that the State of Wyoming open up communications with the State of Montana and to pass a similar statute to open the borders. The reason for the statute is if we all start writing mutual aid agreements with everyone that we think we might need over the next 10 to 20 years for all of the incidents we might have, we're going to be doing paperwork and awful lot. We write our formal agreements with our neighbors and then if we have the one that we're hoping we would never have, we can just make phone calls. So Chief Crandall asked if we would like to start the line of communication...(inaudible, background noise, others talking).

Chief Gray continued, informing the group that the State of Idaho has started attending the meetings – they want to open the border up on the West side, and everybody is welcome to attend, they are held in Helena, noting he had the dates and could be contact for them. A general discussion ensued regarding mutual aid. (Presentation is playing for the group at this time.)

Chief Gray stated everyone who was present had been the recipients of the Montana Mutual Aid system over the last couple of years, from 6,000 car tires burning to

natural gas lines exploding in downtown Livingston. They understand the difference it made. He commented what he did not realize, until the last meeting he went to, is this is not an association, it is not run by the Chiefs, the Fire Chiefs pushed it forward to legislation then when it became statute, those that participate are the ones running it. There are no membership fees, very simple...keep it as simple as they can. He continued with an example of a tanker rollover which had broken loose from the back of a rig and slammed into the hillside. In one phone call, there was a chemical _____ (inaudible) on scene within 1 1/2 hours, and there were two Chiefs available on the phone. He stated there was more confidence and relaxation on his part once he realized he was on the right track.

Ray Weidenhaft asked if the agreement addresses the authority to provide mutual aid, and asked how to go about mobilizing resources. Chief Gray replied that it was up to the chief. He commented that if he called someone for help and needed an engine, if someone has an engine and four guys, they would send them. They have set up the Lewis and Clark (?) 911 Center as the one call and they will just start calling Chiefs all around the state until they find what is needed.

Ray commented that those mobilization processes are already in place and being done now without a mutual aid agreement – in some areas. He asked what kind of legislation Wyoming specifically needs to do this, what was being looked at for legislative purpose. Chief Gray said they are trying to pass a similar statute. Ray asked what the statute says. Chief Gray replied that it states in the absence of a formal agreement a Chief can call a Chief for assistance, and if the Chief can assist, he/she will. Ray said approximately 10 years ago Wyoming was approached by Montana for some type of mutual aid agreement and their legislation was specific in that they could enter into a mutual aid agreement with neighboring or adjacent states if, and only if, that state had the same authorizing legislation. At that point in time, Wyoming did not have the authorized legislation, so they went to the legislation and now have the authorized legislation. Now they have the ability to do this, to enter into some type of mutual aid agreement. Ray stated the caution he would exercise in this issue is the mobilization and tracking of these resources that are under, for instance, the dispatch centers, specifically wild land fire, and where you're status could be available for national rotation and you get a mutual aid response, then who is responsible for tracking those resources, what is going on, where they are, how many they have taken, what the times are, who addresses that.

Chief Gray stated if you have those obligated with the National Register then they can't go. Ray stated they could, but they would have to make sure that they status themselves as going out under a different system. He noted we're under one of the same compacts they are, speaking specifically of wild land type incidents, but we also mobile resources under a compact. Ray said his question is, are we doing something that is already available to us. Chief Gray said for wild land, it is not for structural, not for the USAR, it's not for a HAZMAT, if one needs _____ (inaudible) to come over and help organize, if trees are on fire, then it is known there will be a whole bunch of trucks rolling.

Ray stated they also do structure or wild land or _____ (inaudible), this is definitely needed. He stated he supported the idea, but wanted to make sure the wheel was not being reinvented in that there is no conflict with something else that is

already in place. Ray asked for one of Chief Gray's books, and stated he appreciated the presentation. Rich Hall asked if Chief Gray was stating this to be an all-risk mutual aid. Chief Gray replied yes. Rich continued stating that is one thing that is being looked at. Ray added it has certainly been needed in Wyoming just for our own sharing of resources.

Chief Gray stated one of the things they added in the statute was if there is an accident like the tanker rollover, that company pulling the truck would get billed. Once reimbursed, everybody who came got paid. But they all responded with no intention of being paid, and that's the way the statute is written. If there is no money to pay anybody to respond, you are coming on your own dime. That's expected, to be self-sufficient.

Ray asked if this is used for long periods of time, or are these resources or responses relatively short, 24-to-72 hours. Chief Gray stated the case studies that he had seen have been _____ (inaudible). There was an interface issue where the team that controlled wild land fire wasn't looking at a neighboring community, the Chief of the neighboring community got a little concerned and he called for some engines. Those engines rolled on mutual pact. They were not tied to the fire, weren't looking to be part of that fire, just went to help this Chief. It is very simple, down-to-earth. They contacted all of the USAR teams and asked how long _____ (inaudible), 72 hours. They have, with one phone call, 200 people that can be in route to a USAR event with the buckets, shovels and the pry-bars and just start working through it until that team gets it, it is pretty neat stuff.

Chief Sarff stated he had visited with the Montana representative on January 5, 2006. He said a couple of things that he liked was the simplicity, but was not sure that we have everything that is in this one. Chief Sarff said he had not looked through it that close, but with the term "all hazard"... He knows his neighbors, for instance Green River, and if needed, knows what he will get if he calls on them. However, if something out of the ordinary comes along, and neither agency has it, Chief Sarff stated he wasn't sure where he would get it. And if it comes from halfway across the state, then there are no agreements with those agencies. For maybe a once-in-a-career event, there are some resources in the state that we may not have, and may think we will never need, so therefore there are no agreements in place to ensure those agencies will come running. This covers that, it says you can have written or unwritten... Chief Sarff continued, noting if he picked up the phone for help, the statute says if another agency gives him help they are covered. There is an agreement, the agreement just took place and it is covered in the statute. He again reiterated the fact that he liked the simplicity of it.

Rich Hall said the discussion he heard came from the tornado in Wright, and there were other departments -- not involved in that incident -- but they started questioning where their liability as far as Workman's Comp. coverage and issues of that sort, because...the statute we have, or the agreement they may have... _____ (inaudible). So if there is something like this to help them... Chief Gray stated it goes into saying natural disasters, HAZMAT, it lists them all out by statute. The discussion continued regarding equipment and people available, agreements which are and are not in place.

Ray Weidenhaft asked if with the legislation Chief Gray has, if he serves any insurance policy when called out. If Chief Sarff sends an engine out of Rock Springs and they get into a wreck on the way, outside of their legal jurisdiction, we have legislation that says he can do that and be covered. Ray asked what Chief Gray's insurance company requires. Chief Gray said they had visited with their insurance companies and as long as they are operating underneath some authority, and legislation gives them that authority, then they are covered. Ray noted that issue is vital, and this is something that needs to be pursued. There are still some questions which needed to be asked under Wyoming State laws. (Someone is speaking, but too low to decipher).

Chief Gray stated that Montana would allow use of everything they had written and to use whatever was needed and they would answer any questions as to the stumbling blocks they had, some of the people they had to make sure were onboard with the legislation, just call them. Their next meeting is March 5-6, 2006, they serve food. Chief Gray asked if there were any questions. Chief Huber asked if he could get a copy of the book. Chief Gray stated he had about 24 with him, and that anyone could go to Montana's fire service training website and download.

President Stolns stated he wanted to remind everyone with the legislative session coming up in Cheyenne, that is part of the legislative push, we need phone numbers, E-mail and help with the people in Cheyenne calling back, and you need to be able to contact your legislators within your respective counties and deal with them as well. Chief Huber is looking for all the help he can get in Cheyenne, but he needs to support the effort throughout the state, county-by-county and department-by-department.

8. **Constitution and By-laws.** Gene Diedtrich reported there were no changes.
9. **Wyoming Fire Academy.** Larry David gave this report. Larry noted everything is going well, there is a lot of training scheduled for 2006, and still some work to get done around the Academy.
10. **National Volunteer Fire Council.** Bill Hitt gave this report. Bill thanked everyone for helping him to go to Galveston, TX. to go to the meeting in October 2005. Some of the issues discussed and action taken on that is important to Wyoming is the support, nationally, with over 800,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency services, was the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program. It is legislative issues that they've tried to trim up and due to the Council and its' support – we'd like to think that that helps keep them from trimming some of that back. It's the number one legislative priority that the Council wanted to support. Bill continued, stating another issue was the Good Samaritan Volunteer Fire Assistance Act, to get some of the rules and liabilities from an agency giving equipment to someone else and not being liable for that. A lot of states are now doing that by state legislation. Nationally, that was one of the big items. The support of emergency responders volunteer efforts – if you are a volunteer (EMS or fire) – they are trying to support an income tax break of \$1,000.00 for you. These are all sponsored bills currently within Congress. Volunteer Responder and City Protection Act – is what you receive as a stipend for something, to your volunteers, they want that out of IRS' eye. The Volunteer Fire and Job Protection Act – basically, during nationally, or presidential declared

emergencies, you as a volunteer, would be able to respond similar as the National Guard – it is job protection. That would be up to 14 days – this is the figure that is in the legislation right now. A lot of places are having a terrible time with employers allowing employees to go do fire or EMS. When you look at 75% of the U.S. is volunteer services, it is a critical issue. That is the main priorities of the legislative portion of what was covered, there were several different committees which met, one was the EMS Committee, it's not just the National Volunteer Fire Council, it is the National Volunteer Fire Council and Emergency Services. One of their problems nationally – (tape change) – and that was on the first list, for Wyoming, as well as several other states, support went that way. Bill noted he had received an E-mail stating where they are going to back the Federal players with the grant money that they give to BLM and Forest Service to defend that to help the volunteers. With budgets being tight, that is one of the things they were looking at to take away.

Bill commented what was the benefit of having someone there from Wyoming, the dues went up, everything goes up. He said Ray can attest to what it costs to go the meetings. Henceforth, every spring, and this year it will be the first week in April, will be in Washington, D.C., where we will meet with Legislators, as well as request to meet with different department heads of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service, and groups like that. Bill stated the benefit is, if we are not there, and this organization is not there to bring the issues forward, and help find sponsors on the national level for this legislation, it will vastly adversely affect, we've got to defend the money that comes to Wyoming just in grants alone. Bill asked if there were any questions.

Gene Diedtrich stated he had Bill say a few things about the National Volunteer Fire Council. Basically it is a lot of effort, and it does some good, but wanted it brought up because the dues keep going up every year, they are \$500.00 for 2006, and traditionally the Fireman's Association picks up half of that and the Chiefs pick up half. The Fireman's Association is meeting immediately after this meeting, and if they agree to it, the Chiefs agree to it.

Motion 5: Gene Diedtrich moved to spend \$250.00 for dues for the National Volunteer Fire Council if the Fireman's Association pays the Other \$250.00 for a total of \$500.00

Second: Don Huber

Motion carried.

Gene asked if Bill was going to remain the Director with Kim Lee as the alternate. Bill confirmed.

11. **IAFC/VCOS.** Chief Gary Scott presented this report. Chief Scott introduced himself, stating he is the Chief of Gillette, Campbell County Fire and that he serves as the representative to the Volunteer-combination-Officer section for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and that he also serves for the legislative chair for that section in Washington, D.C. Chief Scott noted the group works closely with NVFC, that the platform is a little different, they do a lot of legislative effort, and ours is education of the volunteer-combination fire service, which is the first priority, then we do special legislative efforts such as the Fair Labor Standards Act and Reform, and a couple of others that are currently being worked on.

Chief Scott stated through the VCOS, the FLSA have been resolved. The definition of what a volunteer can be, which will be a national definition, so that a lot of problems and issues which are currently going on with the IRS will be eliminated. It appears that that has been won. The indication is that a volunteer fire company, or a combination fire company, will be able to base the value of a volunteer, what a volunteer can be compensated – all inclusive – retirement; Worland provides water (or use to), some have pay-on-call, uniforms, everything that you do for your volunteer can't exceed the amount of 20% of the base wage of a career firefighter in your area. In the State of Wyoming that may be a definition established by the State as a base wage that we can work that off of. That is pretty significant. It will probably, in some case, run somewhere around \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 that a person could be compensated – not _____ (inaudible) or volunteer status, and you do not have to claim them as a part-time employee. If you exceed that dollar amount to a part-time employee, then you are subject to all the rules and regulations of that person being an employee. Along with that, the most significant rulings which have been resolved, and will be coming out in a publication that is called The Volunteer Fire Chiefs' Handbook on how to manage your fire department, it will be FLSA compliant, is if you have Deputy Sheriffs or EMS people who are not affiliated, in other words EMS is not part of your system, but they are paid by the ambulance service, it use to be they couldn't volunteer, they can now volunteer because it is no longer considered like-and-kind service, and if you have Deputy Sheriff's, as in Campbell County Fire, Campbell County Sheriff's Office, our deputies were excluded from volunteering because of like-and-kind services definition, and the same tax base. That has gone away as well. Those were two of the major issues which were resolved. The biggest issue which affected 99% of all the volunteer fire companies of American had to do with using other county agencies, having them volunteer during the day and then they could not, technically, volunteer at night. This is the reason why; because if you had somebody who worked for Parks and Recreation and when the fire call came in or rescue call, whatever, and they left their job and went from Parks and Rec. to your volunteer fire department, and went back, that was considered, or the way it was looking, is that that was their job description as that public _____ (inaudible). So, all of the hours after hours could become compensable hours. The good news is that is not on the table anymore either. Chief Scott stated that is the good news, and that they were just waiting for the official letter from the Department of Labor, but that appears how it's going to track.

There are three publications which will be out, one is a blue ribbon report on preserving and improving the American Volunteer Fire Service, that's available at VCOS.org on the website. It gives a pretty good breakdown of some of the things needed at the local, state and federal level to make fire departments healthier, whether they are combination or volunteer. The latest publication is the Red River Report, lending to transition and volunteer combination fire departments. We are all going through some kind of transition and this identifies those steps that even volunteer fire companies go through. That may be useful. The third publication will be out in March 2006, it is a white ribbon report. However, Chief Scott did not have the name of the publication. It lends to developing healthy volunteer fire companies. So, there is the red, white and blue series that is out.

Chief Scott continued, stating the other things he has going on which may be of interest a deal is in the works with the National Association of County Officials in

Washington, D.C., that would give firefighters some board seats on some of their preparation boards for local governments. Also, a deal which is close to conclusion, with an agency called the Association of Volunteer Administration who has a nationally certified program to certify people who work with, motivate and oversee volunteers. This may be a joint effort between VCOS and AVA. Chief Scott stated the committee he serves on with the IAFC has been working with the White House to better improve the way the federal government dispatches resources. The discussions that are currently on the table mimic what is done with the movement of wild land events across the country and module-driven...kind of like the discussion today on mutual aid, but developing that system. Chief Scott's stated one of the issues that keeps coming up, and he was unsure how it was going to be dealt with by the committee, but felt it was important for everyone to take a look at. He stated most were probably familiar with the incident which arose in Hartford, CT., which had to do with _____ (inaudible), and that issue, which is kind of an East coast phenomenon said that career firefighters who work for Hartford couldn't volunteer in other communities where they live. Then there was this whole series of charges against union members in Washington, D.C., over the same thing. Some of those who work in Washington _____ (inaudible), and they fly in and they're officers or firefighters on volunteer fire companies. He stated one of things that came out of that, and his point, the volunteer fire service – those departments who protect volunteers – are not very good about making sure there are good benefits for volunteers. So part of the entire issue had to do with union fire companies having one of their people injured as a volunteer, not being able to cover their shift, and accruing a lot of overtime because of that issue. There are several companies, VFIS and Provident that have some pretty good packages that protect firefighters. As this becomes more competitive for departments to get volunteers, it will be very important that they and their families, employers and their bills are taking care of. Chief Scott stated the committee he sat on is inundated with people who have lost their jobs, filed bankruptcy and lost their businesses, were hurt as volunteers and have no coverage. He then encouraged everyone to make an effort to take a look at that, and perhaps it is an issue that a mini-symposium on and get speakers in to talk about what is available in the way of reasonable benefits for volunteers.

12. Nominations and Elections. Chief Estes stated there was nothing to report.

13. Wyoming Association of Arson Investigators. Dan Shadow and Rich Hallcroft reported. Dan Shadow thanked everyone for him being there. He stated he didn't know how many were following the newspaper articles on the liabilities that departments are getting into by having uncertified people investigating fires – which is getting pretty serious. He stated they were going to endeavor as best they can to give adequate training, as much as can be given as a volunteer. Dan then turned the report over to Rich Hallcroft.

Rich stated he and Dan were going to the Arson Conference in April in Gillette, and that it would not be the typical conference. There would be different tracks for training available, there will be a basic track, and that will teach the ADFR course and the Origin and Cause book too in separate sections. People can attend both and get all of the prerequisite training needed for Origin and Cause Tech. certification. There will also be an advanced track, but Rich did not have the specifics of it at the time of this meeting. There will be eight hours covered by Gordon Graham, which

should be interesting information. Campbell County, Gillette Fire Department will also have some practicals, they will burn some things and let people dig in it. Rich stated the dates for that is April 19-21, 2006. Also, he asked for everyone's ideas on what they wanted to see in the future for training from the Wyoming Chapter of IAAI. Rich stated they would still sponsor two seminars per year, one in spring and fall. He said it probably would not be held in Thermopolis every year anymore, but that that was not for certain yet, and if anyone would like it held in their city or county to contact him.

- 14. Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office.** Director Jim Narva gave this report. Director Narva stated he would be around all weekend and hoped he would be able to visit with those he had not met before. He also introduced the staff from the Fire Marshal's Office – Phillip Oakes, Training Division Manager, Stephen Skoranski, WFIRS, Brad Carroll, Public Information/Education, Rita Lee, Certification Coordinator – all in the Cheyenne office. Ken Metzler, Trainer, Riverton. Vonda Huish, Administrative Support in Riverton. Shad Cooper, Trainer, Green River. Rich Hallcroft, Fire Investigator/ Trainer, Buffalo. He then thanked his staff for everything they do.

Director Narva stated he would be as brief as he could be. He noted Wyoming was accepted for accreditation on FFI, FFII, FAO, and HAZMAT Ops., HAZMAT Awareness. Great progress has been made and it has been a long struggle to get there. He stated a tremendous amount of work had been done by a tremendous amount of people, and thanked them. The Fire Training Study – which there had been a short discussion about it prior to this meeting – each of the departments should have received a hard copy. If anyone did not get it, there are copies available at the meeting, and at the Fire Marshal's information booth at the fire hall. Director Narva urged anyone with any questions or comments to let the Fire Marshal's Office know. He stated Phillip Oakes is the new Training Division Manager, and that he was sending out the electronic newsletter, and that Phillip was trying to get communication out and get training and the training program moving forward.

Director Narva stated 2006 is a budget year legislatively, as Chief Huber had reported, and that a budget request had been submitted. He said he had asked the Chiefs' Association, the Rural Firefighters Association to support the Fire Marshal's budget request with the Governor and the Legislature. The Governor has approved the budget as submitted. That will be moving forward within a month. Another element is an internal tracking service, which can provide everyone with the day-to-day status of fire related legislation, and everything is put on there, but for everyone to get their E-mail to Stephen Skoranski, as he tracks that on a day-to-day basis, so one would be able to follow what happens to a bill on any given day. So if there is something someone is watching in particular, there may be times when one wants to call local legislatures, etc., and as it is done already internally, your E-mail address can be added and it will be sent to you. Director Narva stated he had forms available for everyone to use.

Director Narva continued, stating he wasn't sure if anyone had, or was going to, speak about the Regional Response Training study, but that he would like speak on the issue. The State Emergency Response Commission had asked at its' last meeting that the Homeland Security Director and the Fire Marshal move forward and try to

figure out what the training needs are for hazardous materials and WMD training in the state. A study was commissioned and was returned approximately the 27th or 28th of December, 2005. The Regional Response Team administrators have received it and discussed it a little. There will be more review, and then at the Certification Meeting, which will be at the Fire Academy on the 19th and 20th, it will be discussed on how best to move forward with it, or what direction to go. The regional coordinators in each of the areas have a copy of it, as well as Homeland Security.

Director Narva stated there has been a lot of discussion over the last year regarding fire investigations. He said Phillip Oakes has crafted and worked with the investigators and within State resources and policies to try and streamline it a little. What has been arrived at, and will be sent out electronically, and possibly in hard copy, explaining it is for at least the next six months the schedules of the investigators and trainers will be adjusted so they are overlapping some. Looking at it from a training perspective, the majority of folks trained by the Fire Marshal's Office are volunteers. To have the trainers working Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. does not make a whole lot of sense. Those hours have been adjusted so trainers will be available from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. There will also be two available on weekends. It may not always be a particular trainer, but just make them available as much as possible, keeping them within the confines of a 40 hour work week, and a vast majority of that is windshield time. Where that ties into the fire investigation is each one of the trainers is, most of them, if not all of them, are already at Origin and Cause. Since they are stationed out in different quadrants of the state, they are available to help you with that Origin and Cause if a department cannot determine it. It is no longer necessary to wait for Rich Hallcroft or Mike Sexton to travel across the state to do it. There will be someone closer, and if you need the additional expertise that Rich has, then he can be called in. The idea is to get that service to you quicker to help you do it. One of the trainers/investigators will be on call 24-7, 365. When a call is placed to DCI they will get in touch with the investigator who is on call and then it is in their hands to get the right person there. That way someone is always available. It doesn't mean they are going to respond in the middle of the night to a dumpster fire, there is not much we can do at night. The idea is to please call them, if it is in the middle of the night, it does not matter. Call and get that dialogue going so that they know which direction to take. That way if they need to be there at first light they can be sent out on time. There will be more coming out on this issue, and if anyone has questions call, or E-mail, and Director Narva stated he would come to see anyone who needed him to. He asked everyone to give the agency a chance to explain where it is headed and if something needs to be changed that is not working, then that will be looked at.

Director Narva then moved on to legislative updates. He stated last year legislation had been passed on affording education tuition to dependants whose parent(s) are killed in the line of duty. The tuition assistance for dependants took effect July 1, 2005. As everyone is aware, two firefighters died in the line of duty in Evanston before the bill took affect. The Attorney General has issued an opinion that those dependants will be covered by this legislation. The qualifying factor isn't when the firefighter was killed in the line of duty, so it is not relevant that it happened prior to July 1st, what needs to happen is when the dependant requests that tuition needs to be

after July 1st. So in the case of Mr. Henderson's dependants, 10 years down the road, they will be covered under that law.

Director Narva stated he had been appointed by the National Association of State Fire Marshals to represent that organization on the International Fire Code Council. This is a body which works with the different code development committees which are out there and some of the different standards that come about through the ICC, which is the standards that the State has adopted. One of the duties is the appointment of individuals to serve on those committees, and if anyone has code experience or an interest in that, to contact him so those names can be forwarded. He noted it is important to have the perspective of the rural state in developing these model codes. He added things are not always the same in Wyoming as they are in Los Angeles or New York.

Director Narva stated he has seen a draft of the firefighter background check, but that it is not ready for introduction yet. It became broad last year and included public and private entities, and the private side of things caused a problem with the FBI to do background checks. That bill did pass and became law, but now it needs to be modified because the FBI will not do a background check it is irrelevant. So they will go back strictly to public fire departments, and then that option is out there, if a fire department wants to do a background check they can, but they don't have to.

Lanny Applegate asked if departments had the opportunity to do a background check if they had to go through law enforcement, or through the fire service. Director Narva stated he was unable to definitively answer that, but maybe someone in law enforcement could. Chief Estes stated one would have to go through the State, through _____ (inaudible). An unidentified speaker stated that was local. Director Narva stated some already do it.

Director Narva asked Phillip Oakes if he had anything to report regarding Training. Phillip asked Shad Cooper to stand up pointing out he is the new trainer in the Southwest corner of the state. He asked everyone to use Shad for training, and to please take advantage of that position being moved to that area. Shad Cooper said he had been in volunteer fire services since 1995 with the Riverton Fire Department. He has also been actively involved in public education. Shad stated he was looking forward to meeting with the fire departments he would be working with. Also, that there would more of a regional approach taken to training, and being stationed in Green River would help to minimize the drive time that some of the trainers have been dealing with in the past. Shad generally covered what he would be doing in the way of training as well as that training was available on-line.

Phillip Oakes stated a bi-weekly electronic newsletter is being published, specifically for training, and if anyone does not receive it to stop by the information booth at the fire hall and put their name and E-mail address in. He noted in the last newsletter there was an article denoting the fact that the Fire Marshal's Office is looking for contract instructors to help do training around the state, and that Steve Skoranski could be contacted on that issue. Phillip turned the floor over to Steve.

Steve Skoranski stated the Fire Marshal's Office had approximately 26,000 calls last year. Out of 140 departments in the state, 16 didn't report, and that he was working with them to rectify that. There were 3,987 fire calls, 43 civilian injuries, and approximately \$13,000,000.00 fire loss. Steve noted departments would be getting responses back on reports submitted. The State Fire Marshal's Office needs to track Cause and Origin and to be better able use that data, it will need to be filled out. If a department does not fill it out, it will be sent back to let you know what is needed.

Phillip Oakes commented on the National Fire Academy courses, and that there is a requirement for all of those who...this is a little bit of bad and good news, that the Fire Marshal's Office is working through a process right now, because now the National Fire Academy direct delivery courses that are put on, have a requirement of at least 15 students must be enrolled in that class 45 days prior to that event. That is very difficult to do here in Wyoming. We're a rural state with a small population. The Fire Marshal's office is trying to work within that program to deliver different classes we know the folks want that will get filled up. The current problem is the National Fire Academy has increased that – next year – to 20. That's signed up prior to 45 days to the class, including a roster and application. Phil stated he was not trying to scare anyone off from doing a direct delivery class. But that requirement is a hard deadline and we do not want those classes pulled away from us. Phil continued stating the Fire Marshal's Office focuses a lot on FFI and FFII training. If our trainers are required to do something else, absolutely, they are available. He asked Ken Metzler to expand on that.

Ken Metzler stated Extrication, Leadership I, Leadership III, MCTO-P, MCTO-D, High Angle Rescue were all going to be offered. Rich Hallcroft stated ADFR in Buffalo. Phil stated advanced classes are being offered, but basics must be covered as one cannot build a good house without a strong foundation.

Lanny Applegate stated he did not have a question for Phil, but wanted to comment on the trainers. He said he was sure _____ (inaudible), and that that was seen on a regular basis in Lander, constantly when there is a fire call they are the first ones there, and a lot of the times _____ (inaudible), and very often they are the first ones in. They don't care if there is smoke coming out or not, someone is going to get hurt. He had talked with the police chief about that. In doing that, he had contacted Phil in Cheyenne, and Phil and Brad Carroll came to Lander and put a program on for the local police department, which went over very well, and then encouraged anyone who is having that issue to keep in mind the trainers don't just do fire service, they do law enforcement also.

- 15. State Forestry.** Ray Weidenhaft gave this report. He stated from a legislative point, Wyoming State Forestry was not going after much. The only thing he asked support on was because the Department of Corrections is doing a fairly significant expansion at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp in Newcastle, and Forestry provides the field supervision for those individuals for projects as well as they are Forestry's ground suppression resources. Forestry has, in their budget request, asked for three new positions as crew supervisors which will accommodate the increase in number of inmates placed in the Honor Conservation Camp. In addition to that, a fairly significant increase in the Forestry budget, is six individuals and one crew supervisor and transporting them in Suburban Excursions. Those two vehicles will not be

available after May of this year, or next year. Ray continued, stating they were looking at going with more of a crew cab or a group carrier that has a utility box.

Ray stated from several discussions that had taken place, it has been a pretty mild year, as they were expecting a lot of major problems because they were dealing with an extended drought, there was not a lot of moisture this year. Fortunately there was frequent spring moisture and on of the things...(tape change)...out of state helping other states, so we have it available, but there wasn't a real aggressive fire season this past year. By no means does that mean we can let our guard down. This year is shaping up to be the same way, we haven't had a lot of moisture in the lower country this year, parts of the state doesn't really have much snow fall, so we will have the potential again.

Ray moved on to report on the helicopter. The helicopter was used on 32 different incidents in 2005. It was utilized after the tornado in Wright, one _____ (inaudible) search, and also helped with a search and rescue, so that was one of the selling points maintained all along is the helicopter is not just available for fire protection but also for other missions. Ray stated they were better last year than the year before, as they hired four people to man the helicopter instead of doing it on a rotation basis. This year it will be handled the same way. When their appropriations hearing takes place on January 19, 2006, and if the Joint Appropriations Committee _____ (inaudible) the advertisements for the position should be coming out on the 20th. One of the things to be done this year, from the helicopter crew member perspective, is to accept applications of people who are under the training status, they don't have to be _____ (inaudible) qualified.

Ray continued, noting training sessions for the helicopter crew member there were approximately 62 people that went through the course and now have taskbooks. So if you have a taskbook and are interested in working on the helicopter this summer, it is not a part-time job, it will be for approximately 98 days. That will be coming out some time in January. Ray stated he did not have much more to report. He asked Bill Hitt if he needed to add on from a training perspective.

Bill Hitt said there were a few things discussed at the Rural meeting, and that is coming up with a cadre or group of qualified instructors, and it needs to be a wildland instructor to bring it within the guidelines of NWCG, we have always _____ (inaudible). We are already heading towards the states and other agencies right now. A committee was formed and they have been working on it, through that same committee they also review the evaluations from each class that is taught within this state, going through them to keep quality control. So if someone complains that a person is no good as an instructor, then we can review if it was an instructor problem or a personality problem. That is working very well. If you look at the Academy website under the 20 classes that is posted this year will be happening in the next four months. _____ (inaudible) outside of what's happening here to let Bill know and he would work with folks on it.

Ray wanted to add information regarding the helicopter issue, and that for those who have red cards at any level, traditionally Engine Boss and Engine Operator have all been carried through the Wyoming Fire Academy. Colleen has done the red cards and sent them out to the appropriate fire Chief or Fire Warden for their signature.

Because of the uniqueness of the helicopter manager and helicopter crew member positions, if anyone is in those positions, whether it is a trainee or fully qualified, Ray will go ahead and certify those in Cheyenne because those are positions that they do not have a lot of, and they need to be maintained in close concert with the helicopter. Again, if anyone is a trainee or a fully qualified helicopter crew member or helicopter boss and your only other qualifications are Engine Operator or Engine Boss, contact Ray so he can send you a red card application and they can carry you on their _____ (inaudible) headquarters roster and status in the respective dispatch center.

- 16. Wyoming Health Department.** Jim Mayberry gave this report. He stated this week started their fall cycle of spring EMT classes. There are 12 basic EMT classes. If anyone needs information on them they can go to the EMS website. From the EMS office there is a new EMS registry in place which was designed by the Wyoming Health Department A & I personnel. The old registry would no longer be supported as it had picked up a bug. Jim further stated anyone who had not received their EMS card yet, it is because of the bug – which had been fixed as of January 5, 2006 – so the cards are coming if anyone has not received theirs within 10 days to please call the office to find out what the status of it is.

Jim said they would be sending out their annual EMS System Enhancement awards later in January, and that the applications were much the same as last year's. They had a year of funding where they were able to provide grants for approximately \$2,500.00 for medical equipment, training supplies, etc.,. The annual conference this year is to be held at the Little America Resort in Cheyenne August 24-27, 2006. Jim noted they would try to do it a little different this year, there will be general sessions in the morning and they will try to bring in some nationally known speakers, and in the afternoon there will break out sessions where people can pick up some _____ (inaudible). He stated there would be three tracks, EMS track, Fire & Terrorism HAZMAT track, and a Fire track _____ (inaudible) _____, Deputy Chief Rusty Palmer from Jackson, and EMS training coordinator out of Cheyenne Fire & Rescue to help put that together. Rusty was the MC at last year's banquet, and there was such a good response he has been asked to come back and entertain this year. Rusty has graciously accepted to be the MC at the banquet this year. Jim continued, noting they were in negotiations with a gentleman named Randolph Mantooth to be a future speaker at the banquet. Randolph Mantooth played on the old series Emergency show.

Jim further stated they would provide a limited number of scholarships to enable some people who otherwise would not be able to come to the conference, details are still being worked out and would be made public as soon as possible. There will be an early bird registration discount for the conference. They plan on having a speaker with the lunches on Friday and Saturday at the conference. Cheyenne Fire and Rescue hosted the Friday evening get-together last year and everyone had a good time and they volunteered to step up and do that again this year. Jim expressed gratitude for that offer. EMS week is May 14-20, 2006. ASAP puts out a weekly EMS plan for that week with a title of "EMS, Serving on Health Cares Front Line". Those kits have been ordered, _____ (inaudible) as soon as they are received. They are scheduled to arrive sometime in February from ASAP. If anyone does not receive any, or would like additional copies, call the office.

Jim noted 2005 started the first year of a paramedic skills study, which involves all of the paramedic services, whether ambulance or fire tech. services. They send in reports on a monthly basis and it is interesting as there are some areas and clusters where _____ (inaudible) and skills are being done. If you go to Gillette and you have any kind of belly or chest pain, you will will get _____ (?); if you go to Rock Springs and you have a respiratory problem you will get _____ (?). If you go to Cheyenne and you need your airway _____ (inaudible) you will get a nasal tube. Jim said at the Federal level, there will be some cuts, and some will impact the EMS office. The Federal Trauma Grant program has been eliminated effective August 31, 2006, so they will lose \$40,000.00. In addition, access to Emergency Devices Grant, which provides them the ability to buy _____ (inaudible) and distribute them, has been cut almost totally out of the budget. (Unfortunately, Jim is too far away from the microphones, and is speaking too low, much of what follows is inaudible)... it is not a mandatory requirement for any state to adopt that, we will look at and the two advisory groups... (inaudible)... Wyoming will not adopt that _____ (inaudible). We will keep what we have in place and not eliminate the immediate program because that represents the vast majority of _____ (inaudible). Everyone will be receiving an update in the mail, if you do not get them, please contact the _____ (inaudible).

16. Wyoming Fire Service Instructors. Phil Oakes gave this report, stating as a result of the Training Study done in Wyoming, one of the recommendations was for the State Fire Marshal's Office to facilitate the reactivation of the Wyoming Fire Service Instructor's Association. That meeting will occur tonight, January 6, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for those who are interested. The role of the State Fire Marshal's Office will be to provide administrative support to that organization once it is up and running. At tonight's meeting, the people who are charter members and have started that process back at Wheatland Fire School, will be electing the By-Laws and electing officers. After that, the Fire Marshall's Office will be done, that organization goes forth and does what it chooses to. Phil noted he had been asked what the State's expectations are of that organization and Phil's response was "We don't have any", but had rethought that answer since then. One expectation for that organization is for it to live and thrive. That organization needs to be really viable entity, and that is the only real expectation, for that organization to move forth and become something great. That is for everyone who is interested in fire service training, this will be your group. There are currently only 56 charter members, but to keep everything on the up-and-up, no one else can join until after elections, after that anyone who wants to join can. If there are any questions please come to the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

17. Public Fire Educators. This report was presented by Brad Carroll. Brad stated their meeting was January 5, 2006 in the expectation and hope of trying to resurrect this organization. It has not been very active in the last couple of years and we need to make sure that that is a viable organization. We are looking at a couple of different issues. First, at the end of every table is a blank sheet with information. He stated they would like to update their database for fire prevention and public education people, and if the departments present could revise that information, then it would help in not having to make too many phone calls, etc.

Brad continued, stating some other things to facilitate this organization is the understanding that fire prevention is another task that has to be done by fire organizations and sometimes it doesn't get the front seat that it needs to. They are looking at ways to help facilitate that, possibly through the use of alternative groups of people to help with public education and fire prevention. Also, we will be exploring funding for these issues, because it is something that is always an issue. The other issue is to provide some kind of training and support mechanism for people who are involved in fire prevention and public education, so there is something for them to keep them up to speed as to the new things that are coming out, also, the motivation needed _____ (inaudible) to understand why we need to do our jobs.

Brad asked that the forms he provided be filled out and returned within a week to himself, Ken Metzler or Vonda Huish.

- 18. Wyoming Alliance on Drug-Endangered Children.** This report was presented by President Stolns. There have been three meetings and are working on legislation to be proposed this session. There will be no budget required with it, and it will be in addition to an existing statute. It is not drafted and does not have a bill number yet.
- 19. Public Safety Communications Commission.** Bob Symons, Administrative Support for the Public Safety Communications Commission gave this report. The representative for the Wyoming Fire Chiefs on that commission is Mark Harshman, the Fire Marshal is represented and he is presently the Chairman of the that commission. Wyo-Link is going to get fired back up on January 30, 2006, they are at the WYDOT facility working on the power right now getting an 800 amp service into that facility, also the air conditioning and the fire suppression, and they decided to wait on firing it back up, allowing for that work to get done, so once it comes up it will be kept up. At that point, after start up, there will be five sites on, four sites in Laramie County and Sherman Hill and Albany County. There should be enough coverage for most of Goshen Platte, Laramie and Albany Counties with those five sites up. Once that is done, the acceptance test procedures will be done. If it passes all those tests, then there will be some functional testing. The commission itself is working on the handbook, the policies and procedures on the use of the Wyo-Link system, including the group plan for each county and for the State agencies. The first training session that was part of the contract with Motorola for the master trainers is going to be in February, there will be 11 people, and information will be disseminated to them. There will be a second master trainer class. There are some master trainers for most of the State agencies, and they will be involved with Wyo-Link, and then two trainers in each one of the regional response areas, one will be in law enforcement and one will be in fire EMS. The master trainers will then be the trainers that will do the train-the-trainer for the different agency trainers. Bob continued, noting they would be going out working with the County Coordinators and the County Emergency services on the County radio. The next PSCC meeting will be March 13, 2006, however, the location has not been set. There are two websites, the PSCC.wy.gov or WYOLINK.wy.gov, they are linked together. Those are updated on what is happening with the Commission.

Bob stated the big issue currently is the budgets, there are two. One is the Admin. & Information budget for the PSCC itself, which is \$141,000.00, and that is a biennium

budget which will cover some of the training costs for contract trainers, salary for one person and the meeting costs, which are included in the amount. The next big budget is the WYDOT budget, which has three areas. There is \$14 million worth of WYOLINK upgrade in there, which is part of the contract with Motorola. There are some additional in there for the site work which is currently being done, additional spectrum engineering to make sure we get frequencies that work in every area, the 57 radio sites and on the VHS system that coordination is a little bit more than what was initially estimated. There are \$2.5 million worth of frequency acquisition if needed.

Bob continued, noting the big issues for the people in the fields is there is \$21 million worth of local enhancements. The first is the infrastructure, adding a second controller in Casper, the North half of the state, and also for redundancy. There are some microwave redundancies that are being included, closing some microwave loops so that if we lose a microwave it will still work. There are some areas in Wyoming that the microwave goes in two different areas, and if a leg gets knocked out – for whatever reason – the microwave is down. Locally, there are two big issues. One is the T-1 costs of the telephone lines from the dispatch consoles to the WYOLINK system. They have \$3.6 million budgeted for that. The second is going to be \$6.45 million for a console upgrade, and we are looking up to \$150,000.00 per dispatch center. There are 39 of them in the State of Wyoming now. That will be through a grant process, and once we find out on the Legislature, then we will be getting the information out on how they will apply for that \$150,000.00. That is where we are sitting with the Commission. The contract with Motorola runs out at the end of 2007, so we will be looking at putting up 25 radio sites per year. Once they get going with the radio sites and we have frequencies, they will go up fairly quickly because they are just cookie cutters. What they are looking to do is start getting the buildings built, bringing them into the WYDOT facility in Cheyenne, installing the equipment, getting the tower people going with their work, showing up with the building and plug and playing.

Bob stated another representative is Kim Lee for the Office of the Homeland Security, and that the fire service is well represented on that Commission.

20. Volunteer Pension Board. Lanny Applegate gave this report, stating as of November 30, 2005 the total assets amounted to \$53,252, 991.00. The total number of members, as of the same date, is 2,307. There were 112 deaths. 3,333 terminations. 122 widows pensions. 541 retirees. Total paid out for monthly pensions, \$160,499.88. The smallest pension is \$35.48...(the largest pension was not actually given for the record, as some bantering took place).

VI. **Old Business:** President Stolns stated he had no old business to bring up.

VII. **New Business:** President Stolns gave this report.

1. The State of Wyoming was chosen as one of 10 pilot states to do a National Fire Service Intrastate Mutual Aid System project. Kim Lee, Office of Homeland Security, has stepped forward to work on that project since he has a lot of background in the Homeland Security Intrastate Mutual Aid project. President Stolns stated Kim would be able to report on that at the next meeting.

2. The Training Study was discussed at the Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation Board meeting on January 5, 2006 at the Fire Academy. It was decided at that meeting that there would be a Training Study Committee that would represent the entire fire service and the players who will be involved with the Training Study that was done for the Fire Marshal's Office from that. Larry David, From the Wyoming Fire Academy, was selected to be on it; Chief Carlos Rodriguez was also chosen from the Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation Board, as well as Matt Lee. Chief Rodriguez will be getting things rolling on that project, and will provide administrative help on that, so he will be contact person for that Committee. Jim Narva from the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office; Ray Weidenhaft, State Forestry. There will be a representative from the Fire Instructor's Committee after they meet and get their organization together. The Fire Certification Committee will forward a name. Homeland Security, Director Moore, will forward a name. Ray will get a rural representative through his groups. President Stolns stated what he was looking for was a paid Chief or representative, and a volunteer Chief or representative from those present that will have the time to put into the committee, and the project will be ready to be turned over on August 1, 2006 for possible legislation next year. Don Huber accepted the volunteer Chief position. President Stolns then asked for the paid Chief position to be filled. Randy Vickers agreed to take the paid Chief position.
3. The International Association of Fire Chiefs, as of August 12, instituted the web base National Firefighter Near Miss Reporting System. Members of the fire service may now visit the site to report near-miss incidents and review submitted reports to learn from others' experiences. The reporting system is voluntary and confidential, non-punitive and secure. That website is www.firefighternearmiss.com.

President Stolns asked if there was any other new business. Phil Oakes stated that approximately a month ago, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, through the Wyoming Fire Marshal's Office, conducted a Pipeline Safety conference in Jackson. It brought together members of the fire service together with folks from the industry and discussed some of the best practices in regards to responding to pipeline emergencies. Phil commented he was sure there were some great associations in our own counties, however, even some of the folks who are members of those associations, was really blown away with this presentation. As a follow-up to that program, on January 31, 2006, there is a Train-the Trainer program for responding to pipeline emergencies. For those who have pipelines in their jurisdictions, this is a second chance to get together with the industry on responding to pipeline emergencies. Anyone who attends this class will walk out with a DVD, all the presentations and the student manuals – and those can be ordered for free through the National Association of State Fire Marshals later on. The instructor, Mike Callum, is first rate. Vonda Huish is the contact point for that class. Chief Don Huber stated if anyone goes to the class they will enjoy it because Mike Callum is a tremendous instructor, he was the 1997 Instructor of the Year. He is a great guy and has been doing HAZMAT classes forever. He is on the Surviving I and II Series. Chief Huber heartedly indorsed the class. Phil Oakes continued, noting the class is 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 31, 2006.

Director Jim Narva stated there are some funds available to assist with the cost of attending the class, and to get in touch with Phil Oakes or Jim himself.

President Stolns asked if there was any other new business. No one responded.

President Stolns stated there were a couple of things for the Good of the Order. He thanked the Riverton Fire Department for hosting the Mid-Winter Fire School and supporting the Wyoming Fire Academy the way they do, they do a tremendous job and they are a tremendous asset to the Fire Serve and the Fire Academy. They also do a great job at the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. They and their families put on the barbecue, do the presentation out front, and help do a lot of organization and everything. The fire service owes it to them to come and support that group, those individuals and this Fire Academy and the State of Wyoming.

President Stolns stated there had been a lot of elections and new faces, and asked the new fire Chiefs to stand up and introduce themselves.

Pat Reitz, Sheridan; Marlene Aitchison, Laramie County Fire District #2; Dennis West, Laramie County Fire District #1; B. Wells, Dubois Fire; Scott Hanna, Rawlins Fire Department; Wes Johnson, Johnson County Fire; Alan Snook, Camp Guernsey Fire.

President Stolns welcomed everyone, and noted new faces were being sought for possible Board members for the Wyoming Fire Association and asked if anyone was interested to contact Chief Estes let him know your interest.

President Stolns apologized to the Fireman's Association, stating the agenda would be worked better next year so it is more prompt.

Motion 6: Lyle Armstrong moved to adjourn.

Second: Gene Diedtrich.

Motion carried.

Meetings Scheduled for March/April, 2006 are as follows:

FRIDAY, March 31, 2006

1. **Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation Board** will lunch March 31, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bull Restaurant in Riverton, WY., then meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Riverton Fire Academy.
2. **Wyoming Fire Service Instructor's Association Executive Board** meeting will take place March 31, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy.
3. **The Wyoming Fire Service Instructor's Association** meeting will take place March 31, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy.
4. **The Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee** meeting will take place March 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

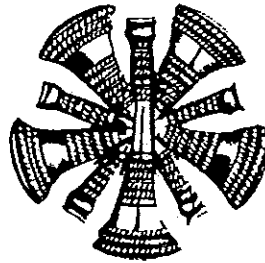
*****Certification Committee members wishing to take the Firefighter II Written Examination for Pro Board, may do so on March 31, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. Rita Lee will have a newly formatted test available for testing.**

SATURDAY, April 1, 2006

5. **The Wyoming Fire Chief's Association** meeting will be April 1, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy.
6. **The Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Service Luncheon/Barbecue** will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy
7. **The Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Service** will take place April 1, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in Riverton, WY., at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Duane Stolns
 President
 P.O. Box 953
 Rawlins, Wyoming 82301



Gene Diedtrich 746-4419
 Newcastle Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Secretary-Treasurer
 P.O. Box 940
 Newcastle, Wyoming 82701

Jim Minchow
 First Vice President
 Big Horn Co. Fire Prot. Dist. 1
 314 Nevada Ave.
 Lovell, Wyoming 82431

Additional Board Members:

Russ Wenke - Park County Fire Dist. #2
 Kim Lee - Riverton Fire Dept.
 Jerry Munger - Wheatland Fire Dept.
 Mark Young - Casper Fire Dept.
 Bradley A. Sarff - Rock Springs Fire Dept.
 Rich Hauber - Campbell County Fire Dept.

Dennis Estes
 Second Vice President
 Torrington Volunteer Fire Dept.
 P.O. Box 879
 Torrington, Wyoming 82240

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Please give us the names of all delegates that you are paying for and also the address that will get their correspondence to them in the timeliest way. Thank you very much. Please make your payment for the total amount due payable to the WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION, and mail your check along with this completed form to Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association, P.O. Box 940, Newcastle, WY 82701.

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